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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Linda McCandless, [llm3@cornell.edu](mailto:llm3@cornell.edu), 607-254-5137

**Cornell scientists honored by international society**

By Joe Ogradnick

The International Society of Horticultural Sciences (ISHS) has honored Herb Aldwinckle, professor of plant pathology, and Jim Cummins, professor emeritus of horticultural sciences, of Cornell University's New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, with its 2008 Lifetime Achievement award from the rootstock breeding and evaluation working group. The award came during the ninth International Symposium on Integrating Canopy, Rootstock and Environmental Physiology in Orchard Systems, held Aug. 4-8 in Geneva.

"Jim and Herb have been leaders in rootstock breeding and evaluation since 1970, and the names Cummins and Aldwinckle will forever be linked as the fathers of the Geneva apple rootstocks," said Terence Robinson, professor of horticultural sciences at the station and convener of the ISHS symposium.

Cummins joined the Geneva station in 1969 to work on rootstock evaluation. The following year, Aldwinckle arrived at Geneva, and he and Cummins began developing rootstocks resistant to fire blight—a devastating disease to apple trees.

In 1991, they released "Geneva 65," their first dwarfing rootstock resistant to fire blight. Their program has since released seven rootstocks created by the two and will likely release five more in the coming years.

"The Geneva rootstocks have generated worldwide interest and may become the standard apple rootstocks of the future," Robinson said. "Fruit growers and nurserymen worldwide know of these stocks and are anxiously awaiting their commercial availability."

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New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, 630 West North Street, Geneva, New York 14456  
Telephone: 315.787.2011



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